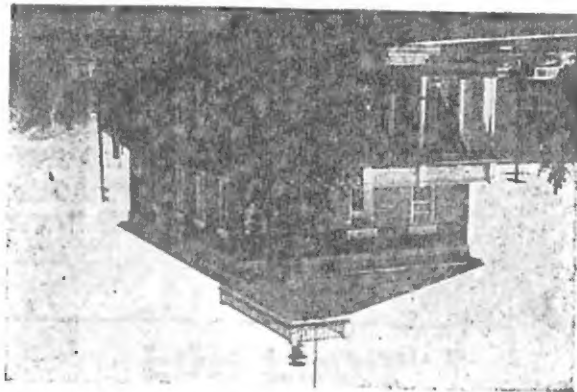


7all 7alea & Short

BY IADAWN ERCAANBRACK



I read of the coming dedica-  
tion of the lovely new court-  
house. To my mind's eye came  
one of the buildings that did  
not remain as part of the red  
standstone square. We said  
our goodbyes and the old court-  
house became history on a page  
— for buildings it seems, have  
about the same life span as  
man, unless some transplanting  
is done.

The structural servant sub-  
sided around the age of 86, at-  
ter all those years of public  
service — and again like man,  
replaced by youth. Like the  
Olympic runner, the new build-  
ing will now take its turn at  
carrying the torch.

The old courthouse was built  
during the years of 1878 and  
1882. Probably a little over 23  
years after the first settlers ar-  
rived in Heber. To help us  
more readily recall these years,  
let us visualize in our minds  
that Utah had not as yet gain-  
ed Statehood, and was only a  
territory of the United States  
whose president was Chester A.  
Arthur of Vermont. The church  
president was John Taylor and  
the Wasatch Stake had not been  
organized.

**THE OFFICIAL GOVERN-**  
ment of the territory was pro-  
bate judges and selectmen. It  
was proposed by them on March  
4, 1878 that the south half of  
the public square be the site of  
the Court House. Thomas H.  
Giles and Abram Hatch were  
assigned to direct the erection  
of the building. Construction  
records are incomplete, but on  
Jun 3, 1878 records show auth-  
orization to pay contractors.

Of the family of red sand-  
stone buildings on the public  
square, the jail came first. It  
was constructed in 1878. Next  
to the eldest was the court-  
house, 1879-1882; the Taber-  
nacle, 1887-1889; and last of all  
was the Social Hall or Amuse-  
ment Hall as it was at first  
called, 1906-1907.

Other noteworthy happenings  
of 1882 are the following. The  
Edmunds Anti-polygamy bill be-  
came law; the Constitution of  
the (hopeful) state of Utah was  
adopted at a constitution con-  
vention held at Salt Lake City;  
the Salt Lake Assembly Hall  
was dedicated; Liberty Park in  
Salt Lake City was formally  
opened to the public; as well as  
the Deseret Hospital being ded-  
icated; President John Taylor's  
wife passed away; and Heber  
J. Grant was called to the Coun-  
cil of the Twelve.

By September 6, 1880, the  
court house committee reported  
to the selectmen that expendi-  
tures totaled \$3,793.66. Work  
was apparently completed by  
September of 1882 when costs  
were reported at about \$4,600.  
plus \$250 for furniture. Other  
notations show the installation  
of a safe in 1886, landscaping in  
1889 and then addition construc-  
tion and remodeling of the  
building later on.

September 2, 1878, authoriza-  
tion was granted by the select-  
men for borrowing funds to fin-  
ish at least one room of the  
building, but work apparently  
lagged as construction was still  
being recorded in the minutes  
on March 8, 1880.



# Tall Tales & Short

BY LADAWN ERCANBRACK



I read of the coming dedication of the lovely new courthouse. To my mind's eye came one of the buildings that did not remain as part of the red sandstone square. We said our goodbyes and the old courthouse became history on a page — for buildings it seems, have about the same life span as man, unless some transplanting is done.

The structural servant subsided around the age of 86, after all those years of public service — and again like man, replaced by youth. Like the Olympic runner, the new building will now take its turn at carrying the torch.

The old courthouse was built during the years of 1878 and 1882. (Probably a little over 23 years after the first settlers arrived in Heber.) To help us more readily recall these years, let us visualize in our minds that Utah had not as yet gained Statehood, and was only a territory of the United States whose president was Chester A. Arthur of Vermont. The church president was John Taylor and the Wasatch Stake had not been organized.

**THE OFFICIAL GOVERN-**ment of the territory was probate judges and selectmen. It was proposed by them on March 4, 1878 that the south half of the public square be the site of the Court House. Thomas H. Giles and Abram Hatch were assigned to direct the erection of the building. Construction records are incomplete, but on Jun 3, 1878 records show authorization to pay contractors.

September 2, 1878, authorization was granted by the selectmen for borrowing funds to finish at least one room of the building, but work apparently lagged as construction was still being recorded in the minutes on March 8, 1880.

By September 6, 1880, the court house committee reported to the selectmen that expenditures totaled \$3,793.66. Work was apparently completed by September of 1882 when costs were reported at about \$4,600, plus \$250 for furniture. Other notations show the installation of a safe in 1886, landscaping in 1889 and then addition construction and remodeling of the building later on.

Other noteworthy happenings of 1882 are the following, the Edmunds Anti-polygamy bill became law; the Constitution of the (hopeful) state of Utah was adopted at a constitution convention held at Salt Lake City; the Salt Lake Assembly Hall was dedicated; Liberty Park in Salt Lake City was formally opened to the public; as well as the Deseret Hospital being dedicated; President John Taylor's wife passed away; and Heber J. Grant was called to the Council of the Twelve.

Of the family of red sandstone buildings on the public square, the jail came first. It was constructed in 1878. Next to the eldest was the courthouse, 1879-1882; the Tabernacle, 1887-1889; and last of all was the Social Hall or Amusement Hall as it was at first called, 1906-1907.

